

# SITTING IN CHAPEL



The Chapels Society Journal  
Volume 1

One consequence of the current pressure to remove pews from places of worship is the realization that the subject of historic seating in churches and chapels has been little studied. As a first attempt to tackle the topic from a Nonconformist point of view, the Chapels Society convened a conference in Birmingham in 2012, and the essays in the present volume were given as papers on that occasion.

*Sitting in Chapel* is, we believe, the first publication ever to have been devoted to this important subject. It includes examples from the seventeenth century to the twentieth, and looks at aspects of the construction, layout and social history of seating in Nonconformist places of worship. For the most part it focuses on types of seating that are less common in Anglican churches, or those which have a different historic significance. Illustrations are drawn from across the country, and cover a wide range of Nonconformist denominations. It is written for (and by) historians, chapel-goers, architects and people concerned about the care of historic places of worship. The essays are:

Sitting around: some Nonconformist shapes of worship

*Christopher Wakeling*

Seating in the Quaker Meeting House

*David M Butler*

From joiner to architect: James Simpson and the design of pews

*Ian Serjeant*

The survival of seating in Cornwall's Methodist  
and Nonconformist chapels

*Jeremy Lake*

Wesleyan Alhambras: tip-up seats in the Central Halls

*Angela Connelly*

Chapels Society members received a copy of this volume, the first of the new *The Chapels Society Journal*, as part of their membership for 2013. Others can obtain a copy by ordering, using the form below, for £15 including postage and packing.

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Complete this form and return to Chris Skidmore, 46 Princes Drive, Skipton BD23 1HL together with a cheque, made out to the Chapels Society for £15 to receive a copy of *Sitting in Chapel*.

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